

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting B-cell growth[[,]] or immunoglobulin production, or both, in a mammal, the method comprising the step of administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of an ~~anti-BAFF-R~~ antibody that specifically binds to a polypeptide consisting of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claims 2 - 3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) A method of ~~treatment of~~ treating an autoimmune disease in a mammal comprising the step of administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of an ~~anti-BAFF-R~~ antibody that specifically binds to a polypeptide consisting of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

5. (Currently amended) A method of treating hypertension in ~~an animal a~~ mammal comprising the step of administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of an ~~anti-BAFF-R~~ antibody that specifically binds to a polypeptide consisting of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

6. (Currently amended) A method of treating ~~renal disorders~~ a renal disorder in ~~an animal~~ a mammal comprising the step of administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of an anti-BAFF-R antibody that specifically binds to a polypeptide consisting of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

7. (Currently amended) A method of treating ~~B-cell lympho-proliferate disorders~~ a B-cell lymphoproliferate disorder in a mammal comprising the step of administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of an anti-BAFF-R antibody that specifically binds to a polypeptide consisting of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claims 8 - 10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting B-cell growth or immunoglobulin production, or both, in a mammal, the method comprising the step of administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of an antibody that specifically binds to a B cell maturation protein (BCMA) polypeptide consisting of a sequence according to claim 1, wherein the anti-BAFF-R antibody binds to a BAFF-R polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of:

- a) ~~an isolated native sequence BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof;~~
- b) ~~an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide~~ an amino acid sequence that binds to BAFF and is at least 95% identical to ~~having at least 80% amino acid~~

- ~~sequence identity with native sequence BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof;~~
- c) ~~an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide having at least 90% amino acid sequence identity with native sequence BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof;~~
- d) ~~an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 51 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof; and~~
- d) e) an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 8 to 41 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof;
- f) ~~any one of (a) – (e), wherein the BAFF-R polypeptide is soluble.~~

12. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~claim~~ any one of claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 17, and 23, wherein the anti-BAFF-R antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

Claims 13 - 16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting inflammation in a mammal comprising the step of administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of an antibody ~~specific for a BAFF-R or an active fragment thereof~~ that specifically binds to a polypeptide consisting of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claims 18 - 21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently amended) The method of any one of ~~claim~~ claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 17, and 23, wherein the mammal is human.

23. (Currently amended) ~~The method of any one of claim 1,~~ A method of inhibiting B-cell growth or immunoglobulin production, or both, in a mammal, the method comprising the step of administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of an antibody that wherein the anti-BAFF antibody is immunospecific to antigenic determinants of a polypeptide an antigenic determinant of a polypeptide consisting of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

24. (Currently amended) The method of any one of ~~claim~~ claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 17, and 23, wherein the ~~anti-BAFF~~ antibody is recombinantly produced.

25. (Currently amended) The method of any one of ~~claim~~ claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 17, and 23, wherein the ~~anti-BAFF~~ antibody is humanized.

26. (Currently amended) The method of any one of ~~claim~~ claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 17, and 23, wherein the ~~anti-BAFF~~ antibody is chimeric.

27. (Currently amended) The method of any one of ~~claim~~ claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 17, and 23, wherein the anti-BAFF antibody comprises human constant domains.

28. (Currently amended) The method of any one of ~~claim~~ claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 17, and 23, wherein the anti-BAFF antibody comprises a F(ab')₂ fragment.

29. (New) A method of inhibiting B-cell growth or immunoglobulin production, or both, in a mammal, the method comprising the step of administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of an antibody that specifically binds to a polypeptide consisting of amino acids 1 to 51 of SEQ ID NO:1.

30. (New) A method of inhibiting B-cell growth or immunoglobulin production, or both, in a mammal, the method comprising the step of administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of an antibody that specifically binds to a polypeptide consisting of amino acids 8 to 41 of SEQ ID NO:1.